

VOL 3 - ISSUE 6 THE ATARI FEDERATION  
1 JUNE 1987

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MEETINGS:

Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the VAFB Federal Credit Union, Vandenberg Village, California.

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership in The Atari Federation is open to all persons interested in the Atari personal computer. Dues are \$10.00 per calendar year (\$15.00 per family) and are collected on the member's anniversary date. Membership includes a subscription to this newsletter and access to The Federation's library of public domain software.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 1.....	President's Column
Page 2.....	Secretary's Report
Page 3.....	Library Notes, ATARI
Page 4.....	Software Demonstration
Page 5.....	Basic Sig, PS Utilities, Mail-Order Experience
Page 6.....	Printer Madness
Page 7.....	The Spider of Life
Page 8.....	WARNING

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BY: Shirl Dellinger

Well, here it is already, the middle of the year. And with the coming of the summer months do we have some exciting things lined up for you!!! At this time I would like to tell you of just a few of them and then at the coming meetings you will see for yourself. First we have gone out and purchased some really nice things for our raffle, I won't tell you what they are, but I will tell you that they are for both the 8-bit and 16-bit systems, these items value over \$150.00 - really!!!! I would like to thank Computer Logic, Paradise Computers, both in San Luis Obispo, and Computer Connection in Santa Maria for helping make this possible. They made the club a great deal on a number of items.

The next bit of good news I have for all of you is Mr. Jim Wooding of Computer Connection will be at the July meeting to demo the MIDI system on the 1040 ST. This will be a real treat for all you music/computer lovers, so be sure not to miss it.

I was also presented with an idea for a special disk of the month and with that disk will come a challenge, plus if you meet the challenge, and win, you could gain \$30.00 in prizes. I won't tell you any more than that, (as I don't know any more) but be sure to make the June and July meeting for more details.

So what do you think is that a full summer line up or what? Should be a good summer, and I am sure with the start of the winter months will come more and more new and better ideas.

A few little business notes that I must take care of, first we will not be having the Telecommunication SIG this month. This is due to having to finish the Basic SIG, and there just isn't enough time to do both of them correctly. But don't despair, as we will have the Telecommunication SIG back for the July meeting. Thanks Bruce for letting us move this SIG around.

The group just purchased 400 disks all of which are double density - double sided. We hope these disks will be at the June meeting for sale to all members, so if you in need of disks, don't pay those high prices, buy them from your club and help support us! The price is unsure as of this writing, but they will not be over \$4.50 for ten (10), and at that -- what a deal!! We also will have tractor-feed labels for sale at the meeting, and your not going to have to pay those high prices for these either. This again is our way of getting good quality items you need and want for a great price.

Next and most important, there are a few of you sitting out there reading this newsletter right now that have dues that are either due or are past due... Now, do you know what that means: first this could be your last newsletter, second your going to lose all the information that you gain by coming to the Federation meetings, and third, those of you with modems will lose access to the Federation message bases. Now how do you stop all of this from happening? First flip over your newsletter and check the date on your address label, which is in the upper right hand corner, if it is earlier than July 87, you my friend are past-due. We would really like to have you take care of this matter as soon as possible as we don't want to lose you as a member in the Federation.

For those of you that were not at the May meeting, we missed you and you really missed out on some exciting news. We the Atari Federation joined the group ACENET, now for me to fill you in on all the details of ACENET it would take this whole newsletter. But I will tell you that it won't cost you anything, and you will gain as we all will, more information about Atari happenings, more public domain material for our library, articles for the newsletter, company contacts to purchase from, and the best part is we will now be part of the Atari Computer Faire which ACENET puts on each year in Glendale, CA. The date of this event is September 19th & 20th, (so mark your calendar now, for a super Atari weekend)! This faire is an ATARI ONLY SHOW, and with it they will have people there from Atari Corp., plus some of the new products that Atari is working on. I will be attending the ACENET meeting this month and I hope to have even more information for the June meeting. Plus for the coming months we will be talking about and working on the details of our support of this computer faire. We are trying to work out a van or bus to get us down there for this two day event, and any and all ideas, and help will be greatly appreciated. Plus we will want you to start thinking about going to Glendale as a group to support our new venture. This would be a great chance to talk with the people that make your computer, talk with other user groups, and to purchase some new hardware/software.

**\*\* NOTE \*\*** Our own John McCammon has purchased BBS EXPRESS! and at last has a great BBS up and running. His system Atari Outpost is up 24 hours a day and the phone number is (905) 735-8845. So give him a call, and check it out for yourself. Side Note, for those of you with 1200 Baud modems, this system can only handle 300 Baud, for now, unless you want to purchase a 1200 Baud modem for John!!! (Which if you do, I could use one also)!

That about covers it for this month, and I hope to see all of you at the June meeting. Remember to check your address label, you wouldn't want to miss out on all the fun!!!

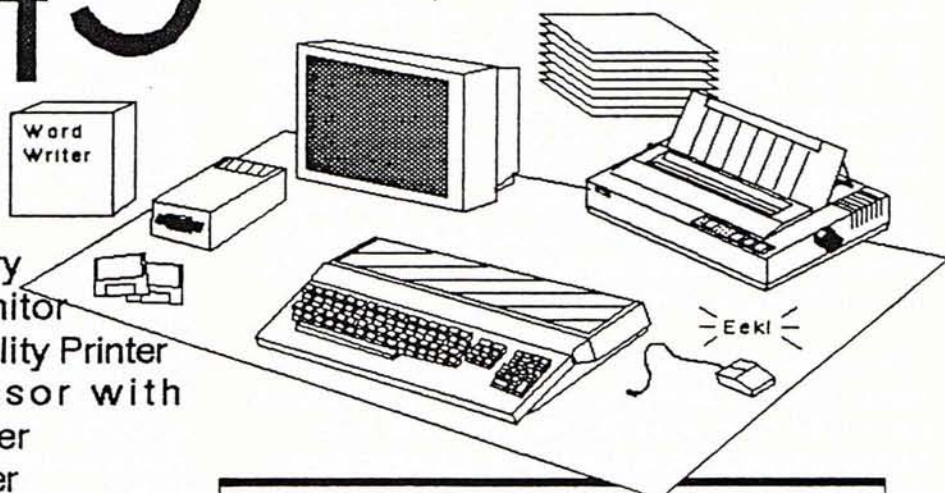


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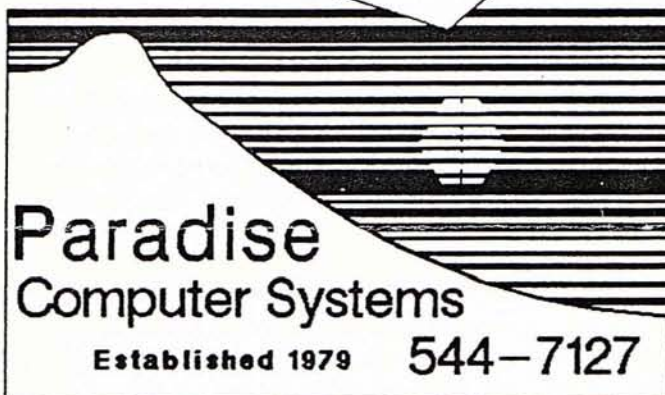
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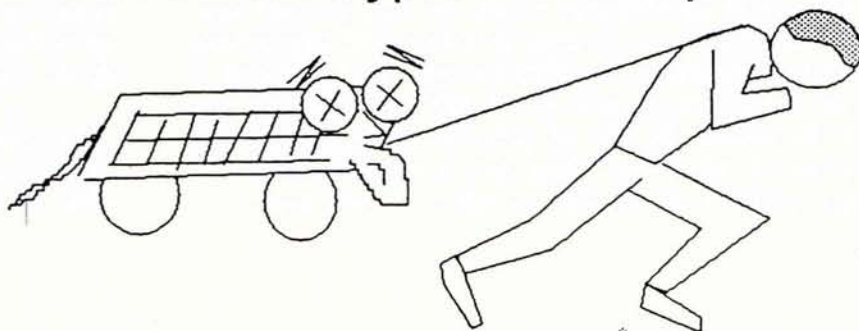
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# SECRETARIES REPORT

by: Chester Hadley

The May meeting was held May 4th 1987 with 23 members present.

At 7:14, Shirl Dellinger opened the meeting with a brief review of the "proposed" merger presented last month by Jerry Stotts. The discussion was then presented to the floor mentioning both advantages and disadvantages. After a lengthy discussion it was proposed and seconded that we do not merge with the Santa Maria group. The members voted unanimously, with Shirl abstaining, that we do not merge. A letter will be sent to the Santa Maria group.

After the vote it was moved and seconded that any further

discussion on this topic (merger) be disregarded. There will be further discussion on joint publication of the Newsletter.

During the vote it was brought to my attention that Mike Mustaine faltered on his responsibilities and forgot the power supply.

The disk of the month was an assortment of games on side one and on side two was a Demo- Surf's Up.

The special meeting with the SMLACE group is on June 3rd at 7:00pm. The location is the Quality Inn in Santa Maria. Disk Publications Inc. will be showing there new product Aladdin. Members are encouraged to participate and form car pools.

Another special meeting planned by the SMLACE group will feature Philip Price, the maker of Alternate Reality. More



## COMPUTER CONNECTION

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### JUNE SPECIALS...

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June: \$134.95

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June: \$ 3.95

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Reg. \$ 19.95

June: \$ 16.00

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details will be presented when they are available.

Information on printer ribbons was presented to the membership. Members were invited to place their orders with the club order or take the address for future orders on their own.

We have received a lot of correspondence from individuals over the last few months. Shirl listed nine individuals, three have become members. They are Bill Harper in Antioch CA, Carl Rabe in Santa Maria, and Helmut Troutman in Auke Bay Alaska. Shirl asked the members if they would please assist by adopting an out of area member to help with the correspondence.

Shirl has organized the mail received from businesses into three binders. We now have a binder for ST information, one for 8 bit and one for both.

Shirl announced that she had made contact with an organization of User Groups called ACENET. The cost to the group to join is a one time \$35.00. The officers had discussed and decided to join so we could let them know before the 4th and they could include our club in publications. Shirl asked if there were any objections to the actions. All members present were in favor of the action. Shirl went on to explain that as a result of the actions by the officers, we as a club now have a commitment to support the computer fair at the Glendale Civic Center on Sept 19th and 20th. She is going to attend a meeting on the 23rd of May and will report more details later.

Bob Ribortone listed a number of members who will no longer be members if they do not renew. Please check your card and renew your membership. We hope to keep all of you as members and continue to grow.

Phil and Charley Rominger presented the beginning of the ST library. They obtained the blank disks and filled them with programs. Thank you Phil and Charley for the excellent beginning.

Paul Alhart announced that due to circumstances of equipment availability, he was going to delay the basic SIG until next month.

Shirl presented information about a "FREE BBS" like COMPUSEV. A company in Alabama is going to start one with a toll free number called The Sundown. This FREE service has a registration fee of \$50.00 for three months. User group discount is for twenty members for three months at \$500.00.

After the Break Gary Williams, the raffle winner, selected the book "Atari Graphics. Doug Clendenin was the winner of

the Disk of the Month.

Mike Mustaine demonstrated ZoomRacks II after which Bruce Franke continued with the Telecommunication SIG.

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#### LIBRARY NOTES!

by: John McCammon

The June "Disk of the Month" is a terrific one! It is fully documented and has some neat menu's! If you haven't started buying the "Disk of the Month", PLEASE start now, it's worth it! And for the members that have been buying the "Disk of the Month" so far....THANKS!!! It makes me feel as all the hard work I put into them is worth it....

The library just received five (5!) more disks. This puts our current number of disks at 79 Disks! Plus we have five (5) more full ones on the way from the MACE user group.

The library needs more disks still, so if you have something in your library at home (Public Domain of course...), come by my table and ask to check out a blank disk to fill. Or you could put the programs on a disk and just bring it to the meeting and I will exchange it for a blank one. Please describe each program you are placing on the disk in a brief message, (hand/typewritten is fine), but don't worry about the labels or the disk directory insert. Thanks again!!

Be sure to watch for our "CHALLENGE DISK" in the near future. This should be alot of fun and you could, (by meeting and beating the challenge) win at the very least \$30.00 in prizes, sound good to you? Then you should be at the June and July meeting to find out more.....

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#### A-T-A-R-I

Answers-Tips-and-Relevant Information

by Paul Alhart

Summer is almost here. School will be out soon and many of us will be leaving on vacations. Let's not forget our Ataris though. Take some time and write that program you have always wanted or pack your modem along on your vacation and explore "Foreign Bulletin Boards". Who knows, you may make a new friend or find some GREAT software. Don't forget to tell them about th Atari Federation either. We can all benefit from sharing information with other people and groups.

For all you "Hackers" I have a surprise challenge coming your way. You could win MONEY-PRIZES-FAME & FORTUNE. Be sure to be at the June meeting to get all the details.

#### SOFTWARE DEMONSTRATION

by: Shirl A. Dellinger

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9:00AM till 3:00PM

This month's demo will be on two different items. first we will have Greg doing a demo on some Assembly Language Routines. These should be really interesting to those of you that have thought about working with Assembly Language, but just haven't gotten around to it. Plus for those of you that do work with Assembly, this will be a good chance to check out some routines that you may not have seen before.

Our second demo will be on Synfile Plus, this program can do alot of things that you may or may not be aware of, it has been said for the money -- it is one of the best data bases on the market for the 8-bit system. If you want to save it, weather its recipies, addresses, birthdays, home

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inventory, auto records, or whatever, this is the data base for you. Chester works with this program often, so get your questions ready.

The following people are to bring in software and/or hardware:

Demo - Chester Hadley & Greg Kobylecky

Monitor - Shirl Dellinger

Computer - Paul Alhart

Drive - Paul Alhart

"Please don't forget these items!"

---

### BASIC SIG

by Paul Alhart

The Basic Sig. was postponed last month because of time and equipment conflicts. It will be held this month and will be the last Basic Sig. (at least through the summer). If YOU want it to continue YOU will have to let me know. This month we will finish up Player/Missile Graphics and explore The <USR> function and Machine Language in BASIC Programs. We will also discuss Strings and how they can be used to hold machine language routines. I have several <canned> M/L routines that I will share with you this month. Be sure to bring a formatted disk so you won't be left out. Also, be thinking about what YOU want to cover in future months. If YOU show any interest, we can go back over something in more detail or get into something I may have skipped. The BASIC SIG. is for your benefit, so let me know.

---

### PRINT SHOP UTILITIES

by: Tom Pazel  
JACS User Group

The following is a reprint from the April 97 issue of "The Jersey Atari Computer Group".

If you purchased the Print Shop Utilities program I wrote last year and you have a Gemini printer, you've probably discovered that the EPSON version of the program does not work correctly on your printer. The following fixes to the program should cure the problem. These fixes are from an ACE newsletter article written by Dick Pederson.

From BASIC, LOAD the program PSGE.EPS that's on your Print Shop Utilities disk. List line 600. This line is supposed to turn on the elite font (12 CPI). Change this line to read as follows:

```
600 PUT $1,27:PUT $1,66:PUT $1,2:REM SET PRINTER TO 12 CPI
```

To print your listing of icon names in "double strike" mode, type in the following new line:

```
605 PUT $1,27:PUT $1,71:REM SET DOUBLE STRIKE MODE
```

Line 690 is designed to return the printer to its original pica (10 CPI) mode. Change this line to read as follows:

```
690 PUT $1,155:PUT $1,27:PUT $1,66:PUT $1,1:PUT $1,27:PUT $1,72
```

Line 1090 sets line spacing on the printer for the icon printing option. You have probably noticed that, unchanged, the program prints icons with the image split by blank spaces as if an extra carriage return has occurred. Actually, the problem is in the setting of an incorrect line spacing. Change line 1090 as follows for a perfect icon:

```
1090 PUT $1,27:PUT $1,51:PUT $1,16:REM 16/144 INCH LINE SPACING
```

That's it for the changes. Now save the changed program as PSGE.EPS on the disk it was LOADED from.

To really fix everything, LOAD the program PSMENU from BASIC. LIST line 170 and change the word "EPSON" to "GEMINI". Next, List line 290 and make the same change. However, for this second change you must be in inverse lower case character mode. SAVE the program to PSMENU. These changes alter the printer selection menu screen to list Gemini and PROwriter.

Finished! You're all set. Happy computing!

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### A MAIL-ORDER EXPERIENCE

by Phil & Charlie Rominger

Hello to all of you out there, it has been a while since either Charlie or myself have written anything for the newsletter, so we finally dusted off the keyboard. As many of you in the group already know, we recently converted our 8-bit system into a 520ST. We were both delighted with the change, but that is not what we are writing about. When we bought our new system, it came only with a mono monitor and a single sided drive. We had both seen what a color monitor



could do at a friends, and a second drive was a must.

I know that all of you have heard the horror stories of ordering through mail order, and I have too! At first we tried to purchase these articles locally, but to my dismay the prices for these items were \$40 to \$60 higher than mail-order, and that doesn't even take into consideration the 6% sales tax. Armed with this information Charlie started consulting Atari magazines and talking to local people who had ordered by mail. We then started calling the firms that we considered to be most reputable. After asking some pertinent questions, we decided to try a company called Electronic One.

Charlie went to the credit union and had a cashier's check made out to this company, and we mailed it off with our order. To our surprise, the very next week a large box was delivered by UPS. Charlie couldn't wait for me and proceeded to tear open the box. The new drive worked like a dream, but the monitor was a different story. It appeared as if someone had placed about a ton or so, on top of the monitor and crushed it.

The next morning we called Electronic One, and asked what we should do about the damaged item. They wanted to know if it looked like the damage had occurred during shipping or if it may have been done at their warehouse. We told them that we couldn't be sure, but that it looked like it was done during shipping. They then told us to contact UPS, and have one of their inspectors to come and pick up the item. We did as instructed and the package was picked up the next day.

<ONE WEEK LATER> Charlie contacted Electronic One, just to see if the monitor had been delivered to them. They stated that the item had been received that morning, and that their inspectors were examining it to determine if the damage had been caused before or after it had been delivered (as if we would sit a half ton weight on a monitor). I was really surprised that Charlie didn't reach through the telephone and tear the lady's lungs out! They went on to say that they would be in contact, and not to worry.

<ONE WEEK LATER> Charlie again contacted this company to see what the hold up on delivery of a replacement was. They stated that the monitor in question had just arrived! "?" Charlie (being very nice) stated that they were full of X#@, and explained that she was told last week that the monitor was already there. The representative then stated that UPS inspectors had to be called in to check the item. Charlie asked why the monitor had to be inspected again, when it had been inspected before being shipped back to them. The representative couldn't answer that, but stated that we should worry that they would be in touch with us soon.

<OVER ONE MONTH SINCE ITEM RETURNED> I called Electronic One to see if the replacement monitor had been shipped. They could not find any record of my order, the original shipment or the return shipment (I didn't had the return receipt with me), but they stated that they would keep looking and get back to me before the end of the day. In the mean time Charlie came home and found said missing receipt. She called Electronic One, and stated that she had found the receipt and that UPS was running a tracer on the shipment. They stated that a new monitor would be shipped right away and we should get it before the 18th of May. (We'll see)

<18 MAY> Well after more than six weeks and many many phone calls our new monitor has arrived. I'm not going to knock Electronic One for the way that they handled this order, I'm going to let you draw your own conclusions. Lets just say that we are far from happy with the way we were treated by this company.

Next month I will be reviewing Real Basic by Computer Crossware Labs. This program was donated to the club by this company, and can be checked out on a monthly basis after the review has been completed.

-----  
PRINTER MADNESS!

by: Mike Mustaine

After months of trials and tribulations that were so extensive I should consider putting them in another column, I finally got to sit down and write this article about the joys of finally owning a printer. (and no, the B20 I had doesn't count). I also, after months of trying, have failed to write a complete printer driver for my printer.

The day my new Star NX-10 arrived in the mail (actually UPS), I was overjoyed. "Here it is!" I thought to myself. "Finally, no one can accuse me of not buying good quality or of not having a real printer. Now when those oh-so-innocent comments come my way about the latest Print Shop-type program, I can look my peers straight in the eye and say 'Oh, yes, I am trying to decide which has the most features for my NX-10'. No more snide remarks like 'Why don't you just print it out to check your work? Oops, I forgot...' "No more of that!" I was immediately impressed by the thoroughness of the manual. This printer's got EVERYTHING! I was so excited, it took me two days to get around to doing a self-test on the printer to see what all those characters looked like. I mean, this thing was GREAT.

It is now a sobering two or three months later, and I can safely say that owning a printer and setting up a printer are



not what I had imagined. Those of you out there with printers may remember back in the deep past about setting up your printer, but when was the last time you were worried about it? Those of you who don't have printers are thinking "I don't care what this guy says, I know my computer, and I can set up any printer you can think of on it." Yeah, that's what I thought. Having 6-7 years of experience on a multitude of systems, ranging from time-sharing mainframes to playing with a (Gasp!) C-64, I felt confident that I could handle anything. After all, all I had to do with the 820 was plug it in, right? So what could be so difficult about answering a bunch of questions in a program about my new printer, the answers to which I could retrieve from the appendices from the back of the book anyway? It's not like I had to memorize everything.

I set to work on a printer driver for 1st Word, the word processor that came supplied with the ST. The printer driver is extremely flexible, allowing such combinations as bold, italicized, and underlined print in any typeface, and will print all of the ST special characters, like the Greek and Hebrew alphabets, as well as several mathematical symbols. That is, if your computer can support. The NX-10 can. In fact, I started out to modify the Epson LX-RX driver, only to find out that the NX-10 has many more features than either Epson model. What happened? After about a week and a half of torn hair, muttered curses in every tongue know to man, and subtle comments from my wife like "do you want the car, or should we sell it and declare it as community property", I managed to set the driver up for all of the typestyles. I still haven't gotten all of the special characters down. I'll get around to it when my patience comes back.

I think that the next time somebody asks me about the newest Print Shop-type program, I'm going to punch them in the mouth.

---

#### THE SPIDER SIDE OF LIFE OR AS I SEE IT!

by: Bruce Franke

On the 12th of May 1987, a fellow member and also a sysop finally brought his system online with new software, BBS EXPRESS! by Keith Ledbetter. On the same day John McCammon found out how his system will react to hackers. I went up on the ATARI OUTPOST (Phone Number 735-8845) with the full intention of breaking into his files and/or crashing the system, all of this unknown to John. First let me apologize to John for attempting to do this to his system, but as a system operator (sysop to everyone else), I felt that he would/should know just how far he could trust his system to operate itself, and at the same time let him know from a user

standpoint how the system feels. I did not use my real name as I felt that the test I made would not have shown the same results. Forgive me John!!

#### !!SYSTEM USE!!

Logging on to the Atari Outpost is similar to any BBS, however if you are using ASCII instead of ATASCII you will see some very strange characters on your screen. This in itself is to be expected of a dual-use system, and not a problem. You are asked at the beginning to "TELL" the system which you are using (ATASCII/ASCII), but if you made a mistake, you can change within the BBS without logging off if you know the command to use. The Atari Outpost gives you a command line, like any other BBS, and tells you to hit a "?" for help, and you may "STACK" commands (type more than one command in at a time) if you are familiar with the system commands, which will allow you to move faster through the BBS. Logging off is the same as any other system for the most part, although dropping the carrier (or hanging up for some people) does not hurt the system. **!!NOTE!!** Unless approved by a SYSOP, please do not log off by hanging up. This is annoying to the sysop and the system. Please log out by using the appropriate commands.

#### !!SYSTEM STRENGTHS!!

BBS EXPRESS!, is what John is using FOR the Atari Outpost. Now Express! is a very straight-forward BBS. I threw every last code at it that I could from every section that I was in, using the same program that I wrote years ago to crash mainframes and BBS's. John's BBS, I am happy to say, ignored me entirely and just asked "WHAT?". **!!NOTE!!** I used the "PENETRATOR" to help several multi-user systems find security problems in 1983, and I have since erased all documents and destroyed anything that had to do with the program, including the program itself. This is not something that I do any more, and only used it to test John's System.

#### !!WEAKNESSES/COMPLAINTS!!

Atari Outpost has some faults that I see as user unfriendly, but are not a problem to experienced "modemers". But may frustrate people new to telecom. One serious complaint that I have is that I can not tell the system what password I wish to use, but instead must take the one that the system generates for me. This may help the new user, but for people that already have a password set into MACRO's it can be extremely frustrating! Another real problem as I see it is that you can not set your own personal help level for the command line. If you want to know what command you need to use, you must type "?" every time, rather than the system recognizing that you may need to see the description of the commands (or not), or just the letters of the commands you need to type to get a specific function. Again, this is just annoying to people not used to this system. **!!HINT!!** When you run into this kind of problem on any system, just open



your buffer and capture the help menu for later printing.

#### **\*\*CONCLUSIONS\*\***

BBS Express!/Atari Outpost is not user-friendly, nor in my opinion is it user-oriented. The user is the one that needs to decide what works best for him at the time, much like selecting what colors you like when you type on a word processor. The system does exhibit possibilities, and, with some work, perhaps a future version will be "nicer" to users. It is a "solid" BBS protected against crashing by hackers, and it does forgive you for hitting a command it does not know (or you are not allowed to use).

#### **\*\*RATINGS\*\***

(Here's the news John--brace yourself!) I find Atari Outpost to be a good BBS, and give it an 8 on a 1-10 scale. I realize that there probably had to be some limitation on the way it was written due to memory restrictions, so the 8 I give it

may not be valid as Atari BBS's go! I do feel that the system was thought-out well, and is the best Atari BBS that I have seen to date. It should be noted that I do run a system myself, and that may have influenced my judgement. I also realize that this is probably the first version of the BBS, and if enough people tell the author what they want to see as users, then maybe the author would include these ideas in a future version. Over all, I would have to say that this BBS system is quite unique, and is well worth the use!!!

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#### **WARNING**

by Chester Hadley

I know a lot of you are brighter than I, maybe all of you are. So, why on earth would I be writing a article with such a title?

8

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One reason is to help fill space in the newsletter. But, the main reason is to remind all of you that there are hazards lurking around your computers that you may have been ignoring lately. I was reminded of these hazards recently without the consequence of serious lethal damage.

We all know that we must take special care of our disks. Simple precautions like never touching the disk itself, don't write on them, store them within a certain temperature range, keep them in their jackets and out of magnetic fields. We all, of course, take care of our disks by placing them out of range of our TV monitors, away from our power supplies etc. and etc. But, then we come waltzing into our computer rooms, chattering on our portable phones to find some information for our friend on the other end. During the process we set the phone down anywhere to free our hands and press on without a thought.

Since we are all clean people and don't leave jelly globs on the phone, some of us might be rather surprised when we put the phone to our ear and get stuck with a paper clip. I was and immediately cobwebs and dust scattered in the dark recesses of my mind, I remembered that it takes magnets to make the phone system work. Could that be the reason that disk got all its data mysteriously messed up. I thought maybe the Sky Cops were carelessly aiming their radar gun at my window.

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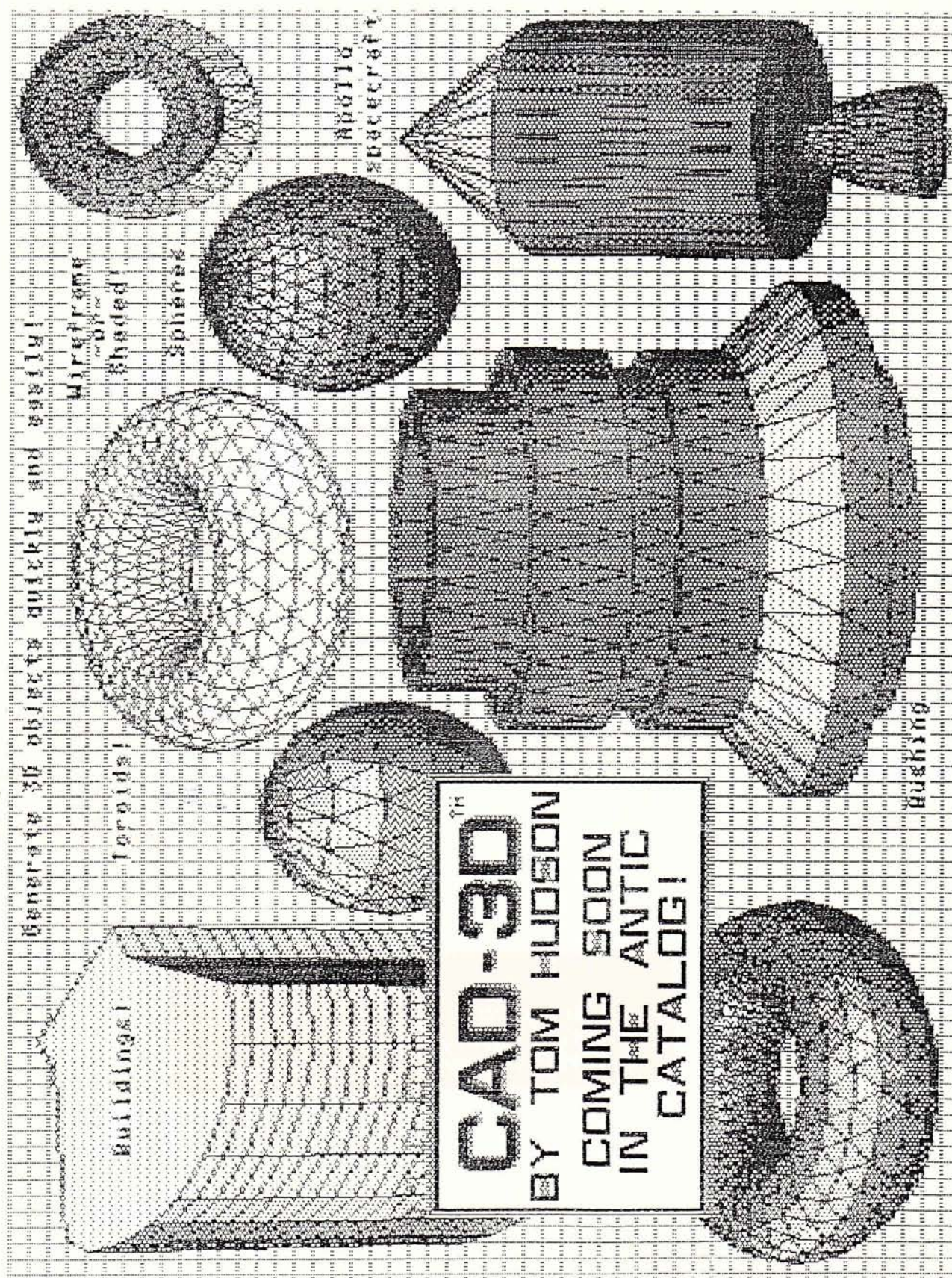
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